

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 IGA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /062 W

----- 015924

R 040500Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9195

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PHNOM PENH 2127

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, CB, US

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT DAILY ARGUES FOR SUPPLEMENTARY ASSISTANCE

1. THE GOVERNMENT VERNACULAR DAILY PRAYAOC KHMER (KHMER INTEREST) HAS APPEALED TO THE U.S. SENATE TO GRANT SUPPLEMENTARY AID TO CAMBODIA AND TO VIETNAM. A FEBRUARY 2 EDITORIAL ARGUES THAT CAMBODIA WAS A GREAT HELP TO THE SUCCESS OF "VIETNAMIZATION" WHICH PERMITTED THE U.S. TO PULL ITS TROOPS OUT OF SOUTH VIETNAM THEREBY "ENDING THE KILLING OF AMERICANS AND TURNING AMERICAN WOMEN INTO WIDOWS." REFUSAL TO GRANT NEEDED ASSISTANCE AT THIS TIME OF HEIGHTENED COMMUNIST ATTACKS WOULD EMBOLDEN THE COMMUNISTS, ACCORDING TO PRAYAOC KHMER, CAUSING FUTURE PROBLEMS. NOR WOULD SUCH A DENIAL OF NEEDED HELP BE CONSONANT WITH THE UNITED STATES ROLE AS A MAJOR POWER. THE DAILY CONCLUDES THAT FAILURE TO GRANT SUPPLEMENTARY ASSISTANCE WILL MEAN AN EXPANSION OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE. FINALLY, PRAYAOC KHMER APPEALS TO AMERICAN SENATORS TO PUT ASIDE PARTISAN POLITICS AND CONSIDER THE JUSTICE OF CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE NEEDS.

2. COMMENT: THE ARTICLE REFLECTS A GROWING ANXIETY AMONG GKR LEADERS AND MIDDLE LEVEL OFFICIALS WHO HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOME KNOWLEDGED OF THE OPPOSITION WHICH THE PRESIDENT'S

REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTARY ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM AND
CAMBODIA IS MEETING. RIGHTLY OR WRONG, THE KHMER
FEEL THEY HAVE DONE AND ARE DOING ALL THEY CAN MILI-
TARILY AND POLITICALLY TO BRING THE OTHER SIDE TO THE
CONFERENCE TABLE. THEY WOULD STRONGLY FEEL THE IN-
JUSTICE OF U.S. FAILURE TO LIVE UP TO WHAT THEY SEE AS
OUR OBLIGATION TO CONTINUE SUFFICIENT MILITARY
AID.
DEAN

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NNN

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